REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 313632001000. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 17, 2001 By: Kate H. Murashige

Kate H. Murashige
Registration No. 29,959

Morrison & Foerster LLP
3811 Valley Centre Drive,
Suite 500
San Diego, California 92130-2332
Telephone: (858) 720-5112
Facsimile: (858) 720-5125

EXHIBIT A. - VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to claim 1[or 2], in which a substantial part of said groups of mixture (A) are linked to said polymer of mixture (A) through a moiety which is chemically different from the corresponding linking moiety on the groups of mixture (B).

5. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to claim 3[or 4], in which the oligomeric groups are derived from bifunctional oligomers that form parallel stereocomplexes.

6. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the water soluble or water dispersible polymer is chosen from the group consisting of dextran, starch, cellulose derivates, albumin, lysozym, poly(aminoacids), poly(lysine) and related copolymers, poly(glutamic acid) and related copolymers poly ((meth)acrylates)/((meth)acrylamides), poly(vinylalcohol), poly9ethylene glycol), water soluble polyphosphazenes, or mixtures thereof.

7. (Amended) Hydrogel according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which there is a linking group between the water soluble or water dispersible polymer and the oligomeric or co-oligomeric group, which linking group comprises a hydrolysable group.

8. (Amended) Hydrogel according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the average chain length of the oligomeric or co-oligomeric groups is sufficiently low to render the polymer soluble or dispersible in water.

9. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, where the average degree of substitution of the water dispersible polymer with oligomeric or cooligomeric groups is sufficiently high to obtain a network in which the crosslinks are formed by physical interaction of the water soluble or water dispersible polymers.

10. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, where the average degree of substitution of the water soluble or water dispersible

polymer with oligomeric or co-oligomeric groups is sufficiently low to render said polymer structure soluble or dispersible in water.

11. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the average degree of substitution is from 3 - 25.

12. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the oligomeric or co-oligomeric groups of one mixture comprise poly(D-lactic acid) and the oligomeric or co-oligomeric groups of the other mixture comprises poly(L-lactic acid) both with an average chain length of 7-15 monomers.

13. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which all oligomeric or co-oligomeric groups have equal length.

14. (Amended) Hydrogel composition according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, in which the oligomeric or co-oligomeric groups are grafts.

17. (Amended) Process according to claim 16[or 17], in which an active ingredient is added before or in step c).

19. (Amended) Use of a hydrogel as defined in [any of the claims 1-17] claim 1 in implants.

20. (Amended) Use of mixture (A) and (B) as defined in [any of the claims 1-17] claim 1 *ex vivo* to form a hydrogel as defined in any of the claims 1-17 *in vivo*.

21. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a hydrogel as defined in [any of the preceding claims 1-17 or 19-20] claim 1 in the form of microspheres, which process comprises the formation of a two phase system, optionally in the presence of a releasable compound, by choosing two of said water soluble or water

dispersible polymers such that they are incompatible; from which two phase system said hydrogel is formed.

22. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a hydrogel as defined in [any of the preceding claims 1-17 or 19-20] claim 1 in the form of microspheres which comprises spray drying of at least one water soluble polymer according to any one of the preceding claims, optionally in the presence of a releasable compound.

23. (Amended) Microspheres obtainable by the process according to claim 21 [or 22] which are injectable.